

What is claimed is:

1. A focusing method for a zoom lens system comprising at least two lens groups, said focusing method comprising:

functioning a portion of said zoom lens system
5 as a focusing lens group over the entire focal length comprising a plurality of discrete focal length ranges; and

changing said portion of said zoom lens system, which functions as said focusing lens group, to another portion,
10 in accordance with discrete focal length ranges,

wherein said focusing lens group comprises a lens group with a life-size transverse magnification, the transverse magnification of which becomes -1 at a predetermined discrete focal length range of said zoom
15 lens system during zooming; and

wherein said lens group with the life-size transverse magnification functions as said focusing lens group in a predetermined discrete focal length range that does not include said predetermined discrete focal length range of
20 the zoom lens system.

2. The focusing method according to claim 1, wherein said zoom lens system comprises a first lens group and a second lens group in this order from an object;

wherein in a predetermined discrete focal length
25 range, said first lens group functions as said focusing

lens group; and

wherein in another predetermined discrete focal length range, said second lens group functions as said focusing lens group.

5 3. The focusing method according to claim 1, wherein said zoom lens system comprises a first lens group, a second lens group and a third lens group in this order from an object;

10 wherein in a predetermined discrete focal length range, said second lens group functions as said focusing lens group; and

wherein in another predetermined discrete focal length range, said third lens group functions as said focusing lens group.

15 4. The focusing method according to claim 3, wherein said first lens group is made immovable upon both zooming and focusing.

5. The focusing method according to claim 3, wherein said first lens group is moveable upon zooming.

20 6. The focusing method according to claim 1, wherein said zoom lens system comprises a first lens group, a second lens group, a third lens group and a fourth lens group in this order from an object;

25 wherein in a predetermined discrete focal length range, said second lens group functions as said focusing

lens group; and

wherein in another predetermined discrete focal length range, said second and fourth lens groups are made integrally movable so that said two lens groups function
5 as said focusing lens group.

7. The focusing method according to claim 1, wherein said zoom lens system comprises a first lens group, a second lens group, a third lens group and a fourth lens group in this order from an object;

10 wherein in a predetermined discrete focal length range, said second, third and fourth lens groups are made integrally movable so that said three lens groups function as said focusing lens group; and

wherein in another predetermined discrete focal
15 length range, said third and fourth lens groups are made integrally movable so that said two lens groups function as said focusing lens group.

8. A focusing method for a zoom lens system comprising a negative first lens group and a positive second lens group
20 in this order from an object, said focusing method comprising:

functioning said first lens group as a focusing lens group in a predetermined discrete focal length range;
and

25 functioning said second lens group as said focusing

comprising a positive first lens group, a negative second lens group, a positive third lens group and a negative fourth lens group in this order from an object, said focusing method comprising:

5 functioning said second lens group, said third lens group and said fourth lens group, which are arranged to be integrally moveable, as a focusing lens group in a predetermined discrete focal length range; and

10 functioning said third lens group and said fourth lens group, which are arranged to be integrally moveable, as said focusing lens group in another predetermined discrete focal length range.

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